

CHAPTER IV

PERIOD OF TRAINING OVERSEAS, JUNE 19TH TO JUNE 30TH, 1918

JUNE 19TH—CLOUDY AND SHOWERS

Owing to the long marches after practically thirty days' travel, the men were in poor condition, being very sore and stiff. There were many cases of blistered feet. The packs and equipment carried on the marches were the heaviest that had yet been required. In addition to clothing, equipment and rifles, the men had carried an extra pair of shoes, gas mask, and steel helmet on the outside of the pack and 110 rounds of ammunition in the belt. Much of the road traveled was very rough Belgian Block. Besides getting comfortably fixed in billets, doctoring sore feet, and inspection of rifles, the day was spent in short periods of physical exercise and a road march by companies, without packs, from 3:30 P. M. to 5:00 P. M.

Company F, which had been at Herbinghem since the 13th, and had now completed the first week's training as laid out in schedule, completed arrangements in the afternoon for moving to Guemy in the morning to complete a rifle range. During the day rolling kitchens and other transport were delivered to the regiment and issued to the Battalions and Engineer Train as follows:

Designation	Hdqs.	Issued to		Train	Total
		1st Bn.	2nd Bn.		
Officers' mess cart.....	2	1	1	..	4
Water carts.....	..	2	2	1	5
Cookers.....	..	3	3	..	6
Limbers (or L. G. S. wagons).....	..	3	3	2	8
G. S. wagons.....	4	5	5	19	33

Designation	Hdqs.	Issued to		Train	Total
		1st Bn.	2nd Bn.		
Riders, Officers.....	4	1	1	..	6
Riders, N. C. O.....	..	1	1	..	2
Packs.....	..	6	6	..	12
L. D.....	3	19	25	68	115
H. D.....	8	15	11	16	50
Total horses.....	15	42	44	84	185

The Battalions issued one wagon and one cooker (or rolling kitchen) to each company. One hundred picks and 100 shovels per company were also issued. This equipment was all issued by the British.

Attached to the regiment for instruction in training were six officers and a detail of 35 other ranks from the British 13th Gloucester Regiment. (*See Chapter XVII.*) These officers and men instructed officers and N. C. O.'s of the regiment in the afternoons in Bayonet, Musketry, and Gas and the following morning the N. C. O.'s would instruct the others of the regiment, under supervision of the British Officers and other ranks.

Besides these instructors from the 13th Gloucesters there were also details with the Battalion transports who gave very valuable instructions in regard to the care and maintenance of British animals, harness, and rolling stock. Unlike the system followed in the U. S. organization where each engineer company maintained its own transport, the British consolidated these company transports into Battalion Transports. This system was adopted by the regiment and each Battalion formed its Battalion Transport by drawing on the companies for the personnel, which